

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-2, 4-11, 13-20, and 22-27 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 5, 6, 10, 11, 13-19, 23, and 24 have been amended. Claims 3, 12, and 21 have been cancelled. Reconsideration is respectfully requested. Applicants submit that the pending claims 1-2, 4-11, 13-20, and 22-27 are patentable over the art of record and allowance is respectfully requested of claims 1-2, 4-11, 13-20, and 22-27.

Applicants would like to thank Examiner Ray for indicating that claims 3, 4, 6, 9, 12, 13, 15, 18, 21, 22, 24, and 27 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants have incorporated claims 3, 12, and 21 into claims 1, 10, and 19, respectively. Claims 2, 4, 7-9, 11, 13, 16-20, 22, and 25-27 depend from claims 1, 10, and 19, respectively. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 2, 4, 7-11, 13, 16-20, 22, and 25-27 are now in condition for allowance.

Applicants have amended claims 6, 15, and 24 to incorporate the language of claims 1, 10, and 19, respectively. Claims, 5, 14, and 23 have been amended to depend from claims 6, 15, and 24, respectively. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 5, 6, 14, 15, 23, and 24 are now in condition for allowance.

Claims 1, 5, 7, 8, 10, 14, 16, 17, 19, 23, 25, and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kobayakawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,557,744). Applicants respectfully traverse and submit that the rejection is moot in light of the amendments.

Claims 2, 11, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kobayakawa et al. in view of Schmidt (U.S. Patent No. 6,792,483). Applicants respectfully traverse and submit that the rejection is moot in light of the amendments.

Conclusion

For all the above reasons, Applicant submits that the pending claims 1-2, 4-11, 13-20, and 22-27 are patentable over the art of record. Applicants have not added any claims. Nonetheless, should any additional fees be required, please charge Deposit Account No. 50-0585.

The attorney of record invites the Examiner to contact her at (310) 553-7973 if the Examiner believes such contact would advance the prosecution of the case.

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By:____/Janaki K. Davda/_____

Janaki K. Davda
Registration No. 40,684

Please direct all correspondences to:

David Victor
Konrad Raynes & Victor, LLP
315 South Beverly Drive, Ste. 210
Beverly Hills, CA 90212
Tel: 310-553-7977
Fax: 310-556-7984